(d) to (f) It may not be appropriate to establish a direct correlation between increase in losses and mechanisation. According to CIL main reasons for losses are as follows :

(i) Complex geo-mining conditions in BCCL give rise to extensive water-logged workings as a result of which power consumption and the pumping cost is substantially higher. Besides, stowing has to be resorted to in a large number of cases for exploitation of thick and contiguous seams which becomes very costly.

(ii) Decline in underground production and OMS coupled with successive wage increase under National Coal Wage Agreement and the impact of interest depreciation.

Expenditure on air Travel

1727. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 6233 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1994 and state :

(a) the details of the rule that endorses not maintaining separately the expenditure on air travel by the BCCL officials;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) details of the checks maintained to eliminate misuse of air travel without keeping accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The accounts in BCCL are maintained as required by Law. There appears to be no rule/legal provision requiring companies to separately maintain the expenditure on air travels. Audit both internal and external examines Books of Accounts including air travel. Complaints of misuse of air travel if any, would also attract departmental/legal action as per rules.

Tribal Workers in BCCL

1728. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Reference Case No. 40/89 got award in favour of tribal workers of BCCL in 1992 through the Central Government's Industrial Tribunal, Dhanbad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the management has neither got stay in any higher Court, not implemented the award ;

(c) whether non-implementation of an award without getting a stay is legal and if not, the steps taken on the illegality of the BCCL management; and

(d) whether Government approved such illegality

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Management of BCCL, who were to implement the Award, filed on Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court directed the BCCL to file a Writ Petition before the High Court. The management of BCCL has not only filed the writ petition in the High Court in terms of permission accorded by the Supreme Court but has also filed a separate petition of stay.

Loading of coal by Contract System

1729. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that loading and unloading of coal by contract system has been prohibited by the Central Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite prohibited the system is still continuing in BCCL;

(c) if so, the facts in details and the reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether there is different law for mechanical loading of coal and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Engagement of contract labour in coal loading and unloading is prohibited under the Contract I about (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

(b) and c) In BCCL, manual coal loading is done through departmental labour. However, due to irregular supply of wagons by the Railways mechanical loading of coal is resorted to through payloaders of cotractors.

(d) There is no law prohibiting mechanised loading of coal.

Coal Washery Project in U.P.

1730. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Centre to set up a Coal washery project in Mirzapur with the assistance of the Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places in U.P. where coal washeries are working and the capacity of each coal washery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.